

Log P-76-95 Not 1737 Rev. P-76-95

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FOR RELEASE: 6:30 P.M., E.S.T., JANUARY 31, 1977
(202) 426-8787

ISSUED: January 31, 1977

Forwarded to:
Mr. George Griffith
President
The Griffith Company
3650 Cherry Avenue
P. O. Box 980
Long Beach, California 90801

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)
P-76-95

Mr. Charles W. Poss
President
C. W. Poss, Inc.
7459 Large Circle
Huntington Beach, California 92647

At 10:32 a.m., P.d.t., on June 16, 1976, a piece of construction equipment excavating for a street widening project on Venice Boulevard in Los Angeles, California, struck and punctured an 8-inch petroleum products pipeline owned by the Standard Oil Company of California. The escaping gasoline sprayed on nearby buildings and ignited 90 seconds later. As a result of this accident 9 persons were killed, 14 persons were injured, 7 buildings were destroyed, other buildings were damaged by fire and heat, and 15 vehicles were destroyed. The intense fire melted powerlines and telephone lines. 1/

The California Department of Transportation, designers and originators of the construction project; the Griffith Company, the prime contractor for the project; C. W. Poss, Inc., the sub-contractor; and the Standard Oil Company of California were all aware of the existence of the 8-inch pipeline. However, the precise depth of the pipeline within the accident area was not known, although preconstruction meetings had been held, testholes to determine the pipeline depth had been dug at other locations, and the pipeline in another area had been lowered because of its insufficient depth.

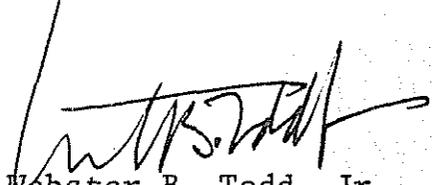
1/ For more detailed information on this accident, read "Standard Oil Company of California, 8-Inch Pipeline Rupture, Venice Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, June 16, 1976." NTSB-PAR-76-8 .

No "one-call" notification system was in effect in the Los Angeles area at the time of the accident which would have enabled the contractor to request and receive specific information concerning the depth and location of buried utilities.

Therefore, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the Griffith Company and C. W. Poss, Inc.:

Cooperate and coordinate with those groups attempting to establish a "one-call" system in areas in which they conduct excavation activities. (Class II, Priority Followup) (P-76-95)

TODD, Chairman, BAILEY, Vice Chairman, HOGUE and HALEY, Members, concurred in the above recommendation. McADAMS, Member, did not participate.


By: Webster B. Todd, Jr.
Chairman

THIS RECOMMENDATION WILL BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON THE ISSUE DATE SHOWN ABOVE. NO PUBLIC DISSEMINATION OF THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE MADE PRIOR TO THAT DATE.